

MINUTES

State-Tribal Relations



Senator Troy Heinert, Chair
Representative Shawn Bordeaux, Vice Chair

**Third and Final Meeting, 2016 Interim
Thursday, December 15, 2016**

**Roosevelt Room – Ramkota Hotel
Rapid City, SD 57701**

The third and final meeting of the State-Tribal Relations Committee was called to order by Senator Troy Heinert, Chair, at 10:30 a.m. (MDT) on December 15, 2016, in the Roosevelt Room of the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City, South Dakota.

A quorum was determined by the following members answering the roll call: Senator Troy Heinert, Chair; Representative Shawn Bordeaux, Vice Chair; Senators Jim Bradford, Betty Olson, and Craig Tieszen; and Representatives Kevin Killer, Elizabeth May, and Lee Qualm. Senator Ernie Otten and Representative James Schaefer were excused.

Staff Members present were Jessica LaMie, Research Analyst, and Emily Kerr, Legislative Attorney.

NOTE: For purpose of continuity, the following minutes are not necessarily in chronological order. All referenced documents distributed at the meeting are attached to the original minutes on file in the Legislative Research Council office. This meeting was not web cast live due to logistics.

Approval of the Minutes and Opening Remarks

REPRESENTATIVE BORDEAUX MOVED, SECONDED BY REPRESENTATIVE KILLER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2016 MEETING. Motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Mr. Austin Watkins, Sr., Oglala Sioux Tribal Council Member, Kyle, South Dakota, led attendees in a blessing.

Senator Troy Heinert welcomed attendees and expressed appreciation for their presence. He introduced guest, Mr. Chancy Wilson, Council Member for the Medicine Root District, Oglala Sioux Tribe, from Kyle, South Dakota.

Mr. Chancy Wilson, Council Member, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Kyle discussed the drug epidemic on the Pine Ridge reservation and the recent meeting on topic held at Prairie Winds. He called for work to close communication gaps among the State and all tribes, especially regarding the war on drugs.

Senator Heinert called for the public to join in discussion with the speakers and to offer suggestions on how the Legislature can be involved in improvement efforts.

Representative Shawn Bordeaux expressed thanks for the Lakota Nation Invitational (LNI) welcome signs posted throughout Rapid City and noted the positive response on social media to the signs.

Update from the Department of Tribal Relations

Mr. Steve Emery, Secretary, Department of Tribal Relations, discussed the department's work to improve conditions for tribal and all state citizens. Secretary Emery shared with attendees regarding legislation his department planned to introduce in the upcoming legislative session. The first piece would allow tribal leaders to testify in their official capacity at Legislature without being a registered lobbyist, as city and county officials are currently able to do. The second piece of legislation would designate license plates for tribal veterans. The department continues to meet with tribes on a regular basis regarding public safety, health care, and education issues.

Secretary Emery added that in 2016, for first time in state history, a tribal chairman was invited to address the Legislature, and in 2017, the Legislature will again host a State of Tribes address. Secretary Emery has met with the new Oglala Sioux Tribe President and will work with him to engage with tribal, state, and law enforcement leadership.

Representative Bordeaux asked about the department's annual meeting with the tribes on education. Secretary Emery commented there was low interest in attending a single, formal meeting, so the meeting was not held this year. The department will work with tribal leaders as requested or needed on education issues.

Representative Bordeaux recommended that it would be helpful for Secretary Emery and his office to develop a one-page sheet with suggestions and tips on coming to testify at Legislature. Secretary Emery commented that he or his office would be happy to take individuals around the Capitol and serve as a resource and that his office is willing to assist with reaching out to particular departments and individuals.

Presentation by the Mayor of Rapid City

Mr. Steve Allender, Mayor, Rapid City, discussed Rapid City's efforts to improve race relations, focusing in particular on the developments of the past two years. Mayor Allender spent twenty-nine years as an officer for the Rapid City Police Department, including seven years as Chief of Police. Mayor Allender provided an overview of the background of past police training, city administration, and mayoral programs regarding race relations. Past efforts ended up as largely symbolic and repetitive. Mayor Allender shared his view that local government serves the community's people as a whole not as a specific political party. The Rapid City Community Conversations group was created following a shooting two years ago. This group is inclusive and invites a wide range of people to ignore rhetoric and get together to talk. Rapid City Police Department has put together a community advisory committee under its new chief, and this committee has been very positive. In addition, Rapid City has a Human Rights Commission which focuses on issues such as employment and housing.

Another positive development is the formation of the Rapid City Collective Impact. This effort has been analyzing the community's problems for over a year. (Please see www.rccimpact.org.) This effort rises above mere discussion. Next year, the Rapid City Collective Impact community initiative will shift to planning and organizing, and then it will execute events. Rapid City is one of the first communities in the nation to address its issues in this manner. The initiative focuses on human service issues, housing, food, employment opportunities, economic development, and homelessness. For example, the group is

addressing the need for a bus route to the Feeding South Dakota food bank on east side of town and will examine the need for additional smaller food pantries throughout Rapid City.

Mayor Allender discussed the University of South Dakota Government Research Bureau report released in 2015. The report analyzed records from the Rapid City Police Department and created an independent report on policing trends, community opinions, and best practices among the department and the local native community. This report is available online on the Rapid City Police Department's website. He also discussed the changing Lakota Nation Invitational working relationship with the community for fortieth anniversary of the event. Mayor Allender emphasized the need to see each other eye-to-eye and decide to make things better.

Another key issue in Rapid City is access to safe and affordable housing, which affects a disproportionate percent of the native population. In 2017, construction on an affordable housing project will begin to address this issue. The local half penny sales tax goes to investments, such as improving the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. The Rapid City Vision fund committee disperses \$6.5 million to better Rapid City.

Mayor Allender spoke to the issues with Indian Health Service in Rapid City and the need to expand access to state Medicaid. He emphasized that cities and states should have a role in this discussion with the federal government and work to move away from patchwork funding.

Lastly, Mayor Allender encouraged honest dialogue, protecting freedom of speech, and the importance of developing real world friendships to improve and further dialogue. He encouraged efforts at the executive and legislative state government levels to take on initiatives or start programs state-wide providing more credibility and a further reach than a local government can do alone.

Representative Bordeaux expressed his appreciation for the conversations occurring in Rapid City. Last year, the State-Tribal Relations Committee moved to request that the Governor begin a truth and reconciliation committee and he still feels the need exists, as natives feel they are being singled out. He appreciates that Rapid City is having this dialogue. He explained that the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe ended its memorandum of understanding agreement with the State Highway Patrol after it sent officers to police at the Dakota Access Pipeline, despite peaceful presentation. This undid positive work and developments. Representative Bordeaux offered his acknowledgement of those who provide service and protect, and he expressed his desire to focus the conversation to help prevent the tribes ending agreements with state. He also expressed his concerns regarding the need to fix Indian Health Service issues and expand Medicaid.

Representative Bordeaux brought up the issue of when tribes receive federal money but need technical assistance. Secretary Emery's office could aid in helping tribes work on securing additional funding and working with companies in larger South Dakota cities.

Representative Kevin Killer shared his experiences of growing up and attending the Lakota Nation Invitational (LNI) and Black Hills Powwow and what it was like moving back from Denver to Pine Ridge as an adult. He expressed his appreciation for the mayor and community's efforts, in particular the LNI fortieth anniversary welcoming committee. Representative Killer feels the community is taking steps in the right direction and toward an evolving mindset. Rural communities have their own issues, but the

efforts in Rapid City are a good model. He encouraged dialogue with Governor Daugaard and the upcoming candidates for the office.

Mr. Kevin Thom, Pennington County Sheriff, Rapid City said that when the county sheriff's office sent deputies to assist with pipeline security that they underestimated the sensitivity of the issue. He commented that they generally are neutral to requests for assistance and usually respond to any request. His office viewed sending officers as responding to a request for mutual aid rather than taking a position on the pipeline. Sheriff Thom explained that in a memorandum of understanding agreement with law enforcement, officers "come when you ask and leave when you ask." He expressed his desire for additional memorandums of understanding and agreements to help better addresses liability and jurisdictional issues, so tribal and other officers know where they stand.

Representative Bordeaux thanked Sheriff Thom for recognizing the sensitive issue and agrees that there is a need for more memorandum of understanding agreements.

Senator Heinert asked the mayor for statistics on the number of homeless and native homeless people in Rapid City. He compared "underinsured" individuals to "under-housed" individuals and inquired if this was where the affordable housing efforts were headed.

Mayor Allender explained how organizations count the homeless population differently, but in all instances, the overwhelming majority are Native American. Some count the number of people sleeping on the streets. Other organizations consider sleeping on couches or cots in the houses of family or friends. The Rapid City affordable housing initiative is separate from its homeless initiative. Mayor Allender added that the "almost homeless" are the most worrisome. These individuals operate well below the poverty line, and one bad month could put them on the street. The affordable housing initiative is aimed at this population.

Senator Heinert thanked Mayor Allender for mentioning Indian Health Service. Senator Heinert reiterated the need to fix the issue but also maintain treaty obligations, as it is the responsibility of the federal government. He pointed out that fixing Indian Health Service issues seems like it is only talked about on reservations.

Representative Elizabeth May asked Mayor Allender about the criteria for the affordable housing and the funding for specific projects. Mayor Allender answered that local government is providing whatever assistance they can to find land and build, but it is privately operated. A great deal of time has gone into perfecting the model so it may be duplicated. The goal is to have homes for sale priced less than one hundred thousand dollars. After first phase, more homes will be built, and it is hoped that half of the homes will be available to rent. The initiative recognizes the need to protect residents against slumlords. There are also plans for just over one hundred apartments priced below market cost, including utilities, and these rentals are aimed at ending the need for substandard rentals. Private developers are providing a large share of the funding but there is also a federal community development block grant that is administered by Rapid City. Additional sources of revenue may be available to help finance projects such as curb and gutter. Currently, the developers are not looking at United States Department of Housing and Urban Development grants, due to the cost of the administrative burden. The income qualifications will need to be met by the owner or occupier.

Representative May inquired as to why the initial homes were all in one location. Mayor Allender recognized the sensitivity toward putting all the initial homes in one block. The initial lot was chosen because the city already owns the property, and it would be available to begin at the proper time. In the future, plans are to look city wide for potential locations. There is no intention to segregate all the homes together.

Presentation by the Rapid City Police Department

Mr. Karl Jegeris, Chief of Police, Rapid City, led a presentation on the issues and activities surrounding race relations by the Rapid City Police Department. He discussed the large impact Rapid City and the Pine Ridge Reservation have on one another, and he asked for forgiveness from the native community for past actions and misunderstandings. Chief Jegeris wanted to discuss coming together as state, local, and tribal governments and communities to solve serious crime issues. Chief Jegeris sees his role as chief peace keeper for the city. One of the most positive developments of the past two years has been the creation of the police department's community advisory committee.

Mr. Vaughn Vargas, Community Advisory Committee Chair, Rapid City, explained to the committee how the community advisory committee was formed and its focus. This group works to develop the best working relationship between the community and the police department. The idea had been recommended in 1977 and again in 1992 but only came to fruition in 2015. The group worked to educate itself on adversity faced by members of the community. One of the group's key accomplishments has been training the Rapid City Police Department on state laws and the history of South Dakota, including the oppression of native people. All of the department officers have received the training as of November 2016. Next, the committee helped to coordinate the dedication of the Mitakuye Oyasin police cruiser with artwork honoring the diversity of the city. Vargas emphasized the importance of coming together as a community, and he highlighted the community conversations events and the Lakota Nation Invitational red carpet welcoming event. In addition, Little Wound High School did an honoring for the Rapid City Police Department and the Pennington County Sheriff's Office. The community advisory committee is working diligently with the department and other partners to produce a system to have more native police officers. The department and the advisory committee would like to work with the State-Tribal Relations Committee, the Governor's office, and the Legislature on this and other issues. Recruiting minorities for law enforcement careers is a nation-wide problem, but the practices Rapid City is using and developing can become a model for producing more native and minority law enforcement officers.

Secretary Emery commented on the South Dakota Highway Patrol's efforts to recruit native candidates, including carrying out recruitment drives at tribal colleges, and Secretary Emery offered to connect the State's resources with the community advisory committee for recruiting in all of state government.

Chief Jegeris provided legislators with a handout ([Document #1](#)) of a recent letter he had written to the Oglala Sioux Tribal President regarding how jurisdictional issues complicate and dampen efforts to reduce and prevent serious crime. The department's intent is to extend a hand and collaborate. Chief Jegeris spoke about the five shootings in Pine Ridge since July and the meth epidemic throughout the area of Rapid City and Pine Ridge. He emphasized the need for law enforcement leaders to get in front of serious crime and shared that he plans to appear before the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council in the next two months. The department views public safety on the Pine Ridge Reservation as vital, because in reality Pine Ridge is

part of the larger, extended Rapid City community. Jegeris commented on how the department is pushing deeper into recruitment than ever before to produce tangible results in terms of recruiting native and minority officers and improving relations between the community and law enforcement.

Senator Jim Bradford spoke to the importance of changing the perceptions of both law enforcement officers toward native people and the native population's view of law enforcement. He has heard positive feedback from people who have heard the Rapid City Police Department's new recruitment presentation. Senator Bradford acknowledged that law enforcement leadership is receptive to positive change, and that Rapid City is making progress.

Senator Heinert thanked Chief Jegeris for his and the department's commitment to public safety and the steps the department is taking on the recognition of and commitment to needs of native people.

Representative May asked if the Rapid City Police Department training is similar to the training for the South Dakota Highway Patrol or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officers. She expressed her concerns that many tribal and BIA law enforcement officers often have to travel to New Mexico for an extended period for training and asked that recruitment efforts keep this in mind. Chief Jegeris answered that the South Dakota training is similar, but the federal BIA training is separate process.

Representative Killer called for collaboration to get tribal law enforcement officers in slots at the state police training academy.

Senator Heinert expressed the need to renew efforts to add another session at the state training center for tribal officers. The state training center is worried about burnout from the increased workload of another session at current staffing levels.

Chief Jegeris shared the invaluable benefit to include tribal officers in the training along the side officers from other communities during training to increase awareness and improve relations and engagement.

Secretary Emery added that memorandum of understanding agreements are key to addressing jurisdictional issues. One of the biggest issues Indian country faces in partnering with law enforcement is feeling like giving up tribal sovereignty when making this type of agreement. However, Secretary Emery pointed out that tribes are actually exercising their sovereignty in entering into these agreements.

Presentation by the South Dakota Department of Education, Office of Indian Education

Mr. Mato Standing High, Director, Office of Indian Education, Rapid City, presented the South Dakota Department of Education, Office of Indian Education's current priorities and provided legislators with a handout outlining the information. ([Document #2](#)) In 2016, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 81, funding a paraprofessional scholarship program. The program gave funding to current paraprofessionals to obtain teaching certification. To be eligible, the paraprofessionals must work in a qualifying school. Most applicants had a substantial number of college credits already completed, but a couple recipients needed to complete all four years of a program.

Senator Heinert inquired as to how much money was left and what could be done with any leftover funding. Mr. Standing High responded there was \$440,000 allocated, but the office is waiting on Black Hills State University to provide requested information the forecast budget can be finalized. Individuals in the program are already engaged in the community and working in the local school and are willing to make a long-term commitment. Mr. Standing High stated that how long the program would last is dependent upon support from the Legislature. The Office of Indian Education is not able to definitively estimate how long the current funding will last until the budget forecast can be finalized, but it also depends on how much education future participants have left to complete. This program is needed annually to meet teacher shortage, especially in Indian communities.

Mr. Standing High covered the achievement schools grant to address the need to redesign educational delivery to increase achievement outcomes. The grant focuses on incorporating culture, language, the whole child concept, and meeting varying student learning capabilities. The grant provides \$590,000 per school over a three-year period. A fellow will be trained at the Native American Community Academy (NACA) in New Mexico. The grant is looking to follow NACA's model for Indian education. All three schools that applied were awarded the grant, including Wakpala High School, Todd County Middle School, and Todd County Cultural Elementary School. Todd County will be able to create a K-8 program, due to two schools being selected. Mr. Standing High stated that K-12 efforts would equal the best opportunity to succeed. Most of the funding goes to a fellow's salary, training, and travel. All schools can engage in this process, but the grant provides a funding mechanism. The three year roll out process for the grant begins in January.

Representative Bordeaux asked if there were methods the office could have made to engage more eligible school boards and districts. Mr. Standing High answered that there was not a clear answer as to why few school districts chose to apply. The office sent notice to every school board and principal. Some schools made initial inquiry calls but felt there were pressing issues to fix first.

Mr. Standing High stated the next major priority of the Office of Indian Education is improving school attendance. Students are not getting any benefit if they are not attending school. The office wishes to survey schools to examine the issue on a more in depth level. Providing students with technology can offer some assistance. There is a great need for more community and parent engagement.

Mr. Standing High discussed career and technical education (CTE). CTE opportunities are crucial to meet needs of community in a short of amount of time. Today's CTE offers high paying and rewarding jobs.

Mr. Standing High presented the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements, which include having meaningful consultation with tribes. The first meaningful consultation session had to be cancelled due to weather but is rescheduled for January 7, 2016. Letters have been sent to each tribe to identify a designee for these consultations.

Mr. Standing High called attention to the need to recognize that not all students have the same opportunities. Some of the State's children are born into circumstances where they are disadvantaged, but the future depends on working together to create better opportunities for all South Dakota children. Mr. Standing High encouraged opening up lines of communication, including meeting with the State Secretary of Education and looking at how tribal treaty schools can work with the State.

Senator Heinert commented that this will be a lean upcoming year for South Dakota. Many career and technical education programs are funded through Build South Dakota, but there is no money to replenish the program in the budget this year. He encouraged the committee to keep this in mind during the appropriations process.

Representative Bordeaux asked attendees and others to help legislators to identify what laws need to be changed or how to assist tribally controlled and federally funded schools. He has been approached by St. Francis schools because they are left out of many state initiatives. Representative Bordeaux wants to make sure all schools are inclusive.

Senator Heinert reiterated that none of the work with the Blue Ribbon Task Force or teacher funding went to the treaty schools. These schools cannot reach the levels of state funded schools. However, there are areas of cooperation and understanding that all can work on. He appreciated the help in pointing out what to tackle and advocating, especially in terms of funding.

Representative May inquired regarding the lower level of funding per student in Bureau of Indian Education federally funded schools versus South Dakota funded schools. She asked attendees for suggestions or further assistance in finding funding for treaty schools located in South Dakota.

Senator Heinert provided a brief overview of the background issues for tribal control of local schools. He emphasized that the conversation needs to start at the tribal and local school level. Senator Heinert stated that it is unclear what direction the new administration in Washington, D.C. will take. There are serious concerns, but right now, he stressed that the efforts from all should be at a minimum to protect what little schools are receiving from the federal government.

Presentation by Mniluzahan Okolakiciyapi Ambassadors "Rapid City Circle of Friends "

Ms. Karen Mortimer, Project Director, Mniluzahan Okolakiciyapi Ambassadors, provided an overview of the "Rapid City Circle of Friends" Mniluzahan Okolakiciyapi Ambassadors (MOAs), a Bush Community Innovation Grant project, and introduced the MOAs in attendance ([Document #3](#)). The two years of Bush funding ends at the close of 2016, but the program has secured funding to continue. The program addresses broken relationships and the lack of respect between natives and non-natives in the community of Rapid City. The ambassadors look at systemic change through community leadership, recognizing that both history and place matter. The project tries to keep an even number of native and non-native members and to recruit leaders from different areas within the Rapid City community, including law enforcement, health, legal, and students. There has been both tangible and intangible developments but the MOAs have received an overall positive response.

Ms. Mortimer shared that the project received a grant from the John T. Vucurevich Foundation, and other funding opportunities are on the horizon. A new initiative is to develop a pilot youth advisory council to work with adult ambassadors.

Ms. Mortimer emphasized the connection between natives and non-natives. She has been in contact with other locations to use this project as a model, and Bush Foundation is also interested how this can be

replicated. Mortimer offered the project's support for any work of the State-Tribal Relations Committee and commented that this is the time for us to use the momentum from what is happening now.

Ms. Marnie Herrmann, Project Ambassador and Senior EVP/Director of Marketing, Security First Bank, Rapid City, described some of the project's activities including educational, cultural, and historic forums for the community; taking community members to visit the Pine Ridge Reservation; and championing events, such as the Native American Day parade, the Black Hills Powwow, and the Lakota Nation Invitational. Herrmann stated that a major goal post of the project is to foster and strengthen support between natives and non-natives throughout the community. She also shared that the project is part of Rapid City Collective Impact, bringing entities within the community. The MOAs have worked to build or rebuild interpersonal relationship and help others take the first steps toward improved relations. Herrmann added that the Black Hills Powwow and LNI events were important to help justify the expenditure to expand the Rushmore Civic Center. There are real numbers to document the high level of spending going on in this market during the events. She shared that the Convention and Visitors Bureau has been donating to LNI for about fifteen years, but they usually keep their support quiet. This year the Convention and Visitors Bureau lead the LNI welcoming committee.

Ms. Kibbe Conti, Project Ambassador and Registered Dietician, Indian Health Service, Rapid City, spoke to the project's efforts to draw upon collective resources that already exist in Rapid City. She chairs the history and preservation committee at the Sioux San Public Health Service Hospital and will be sharing the story at the next Rapid City community conversations session. The group emphasizes being respectful of important pieces of history and continues to work with mayor, city council, and stakeholders of the land. MOAs aim to hold community town halls and generate a whitepaper and documentary on the history of the land, emphasizing that this needs to be just as important to non-natives in the community.

Mr. Whitney Rencountre, Project Ambassador and Coordinator, Rural America Initiatives, Rapid City, shared the history of a 1950s ordinance in Chamberlain. He stated he didn't understand the history of issues growing up until he learned more in college, and he didn't grow up seeing that people went to college to learn and to improve their lives and lives of those around them. Mr. Rencountre's children attend school in Rapid City, and his wife works in the school district. He spoke about the MOAs' educational bus tour where they learned history of the Black Hills and the treaties. Mr. Rencountre stated participants are willing to take time out of their busy lives, because this is important work that needs to be done, especially in South Dakota due to the history and population.

Mr. Rencountre spoke about his positive feelings regarding the LNI welcome caravan that brought teams into city this year and described how the mayor, MOAs, and Convention and Visitors Bureau members greeted the athletes. He pointed out that Rapid City is a transient area, and students and visitors come in from all over and will witness these efforts and their impact. He shared that the Standing Rock movement succeeded because natives and non-natives worked together, and he called for people to speak up and do what is right, regardless. Rapid City has the MOAs and other partners behind these efforts.

Representative Killer thanked the MOAs for the work that they are accomplishing. In reading social media posts and comments, he has noticed that the issues of law enforcement and the economy are weighing heavily on people's minds. He reiterated that while there is no income tax South Dakota, everyone pays sales tax and/or property tax. Natives pay sales tax, too, and many pay property taxes when they live in

areas outside of the reservations. There is a frustration to battle through mindset that Indians don't pay taxes.

Representative Bordeaux asked what are the next steps that other communities can take to get this program. He encouraged everyone to open up to ideas from other communities and organizations. He stated that what is happening in Rapid City is wonderful, and the hope is that these activities expand to other locations.

Senator Heinert stated there is a need for initiatives like this project in Winner, Martin, and Bismarck.

Public Comment

Ms. Cecilia Fire Thunder, Oglala Sioux Tribal Member, Martin, discussed the project at Little Thunder School, she called for solutions on how get young people in Rapid City and Pine Ridge to come together and get to know each other as human beings. She discussed the BIA training curriculum for law enforcement. She encouraged legislators to look at statutes and legislation to be inclusive of every child in South Dakota and discussed the founding of health clubs at schools in Pine Ridge to promote health careers and said that they are working on a partnership to take students to tour Rapid City Regional Hospital.

Mr. Tom Katus, Omniciye Rotary Club, Rapid City, provided a historical background to past efforts to improve race relations that were successful and many that were unproductive. He encouraged everyone to invite and include business community, while letting the community at large come forward and take initiative. He expressed how different the LNI was this year versus how it was initially accepted in this community. Ten days ago there was a welcoming reception for LNI board. Business people have donated money and rooms for LNI. Things have changed dramatically in last two years, and the community needs to keep this going. Millions of dollars come into this community because of LNI, and for first time, business community seems to recognizing this fact. There are a lot of great people behind the scenes working to make this happen.

Representative-Elect Oren L. Lesmeister, District 28A, Parade, commended the committee and participants for the discussion at the meeting. He shared his frustration with the intersection of multiple law enforcement agencies, such as surrounding Standing Rock, and the jurisdictional issues. He requested that Secretary Emery provide assistance as possible. Representative-Elect Lesmeister also discussed using the Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School Board and school district as a model on bringing the local state-funded school and the federally funded school to combe impact aid dollars.

Mr. Paul Archambault, Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council Member, told the committee that the tribe has been asking for help from state and wanted to know who to contact to help tribal members with law enforcement issues. Representative Bordeaux offered that Secretary Emery is a cabinet level member of the executive branch and can talk offline on connecting with resources and contacts, as well as other tribes to bring parties together.

Mr. Rencountre stated in America, we don't have to all agree, but it is important to respect each other, and that is what these conversations are doing. He pointed out that Rural America Initiatives is the largest

employer of native people in Rapid City and spoke about their efforts to construct a building to house the Oyate and Head Start programs. There is a Capital Campaign, and they are receiving approximately two million dollars from the city.

Mr. Watkins, Sr. shared with attendees that the relationship with police wasn't there in early 1980s, and there were great divisions. He emphasized the need for respect from law enforcement and spoke about a recent positive experience he had getting stopped by young officer for having tail light out. He also expressed his concern for Indian Health Service cost issues and subsequent housing difficulty for tribal members.

Mr. Wilson thanked the MOAs for their work but recognized the long way ahead. He discussed concerns with profiling by law enforcement and the need to improve the telling and record of South Dakota history to talk more about what has happened with natives in the State. He encouraged everyone to open up the dialogue, including for small communities.

Ms. Sharon Lee, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School Board, Eagle Butte, discussed the media's role in perceptions for the Lakota Nation Invitational and for state-tribal relations, as a whole. She called for additional media efforts to cover this issue.

Mr. Lionel Bordeaux, President, Sinte Gleska University, Mission, thanked attendees for their efforts, in particular, the Lakota legislators on the committee for their service. President Bordeaux provided historical context and thoughts from his years of experience in education. He encouraged participants to pull the two races together through education.

Committee Discussion

Representative May stated that she believes it is important for the public, especially the native population, to know about non-native people donating and working on the issue of improving race relations. People have to be able to know that there are people out there on both sides trying to make a difference, and everyone needs to get away from grouping a whole people together when something bad happens. Both sides need to work on this tendency.

Representative Lee Qualm stated that whatever one identifies as, all South Dakotans live together, work together, and need to get along. He acknowledged the deep seated feelings on all sides and pointed to the need to have dialogue back and forth.

Representative Bordeaux stated that tribes were close to taking the Lakota Nation Invitational out of Rapid City because of the poor relations, but now in 2016, there was a red carpet. Everyone is just scratching the surface of the state-tribal relationship. He encouraged everyone to think about collective employment and bringing dollars in and not viewing the situations as separate federal and state sides. He called for all parties sitting down together and talking about how to bring these dollars into all of South Dakota. Representative Bordeaux encouraged all to come together to work to make South Dakota better for everyone.

Senator Heinert thanked everyone at the meeting for the work they are doing. Today, there was progress and productive dialogue. He explained that assimilation is not reconciliation, and younger generations can learn and go forward without some of the baggage that past generations carry. Communities being engaged and inviting to natives goes a long way toward where the State is headed. He encouraged all to come to the State of the Tribes address. Senator Heinert stated that he is starting to see attitudes change in South Dakota, and this comes from grass roots efforts, as seen at the meeting.

Adjournment

REPRESENTATIVE KILLER MOVED, SECONDED BY REPRESENTATIVE BORDEAUX, TO ADJOURN. The motion prevailed on a voice vote.

The committee adjourned at 4:10 p.m. (MDT).